

eliminate the American Bar Association's essential role in reviewing and providing advice on the qualifications of potential judges before those nominations are sent to the Senate for confirmation.

For the past 53 years the American Bar Association has played a critical role in the judicial nominations process by evaluating potential candidates, first for the Senate in 1948, and then in 1952 for President Dwight D. Eisenhower and his eight successors, Democrat and Republican. The ABA's 15-member Standing Committee on Federal Judiciary has examined the candidates' experience and legal writings and then confidentially interviewed judges and lawyers who have worked with the candidates in order to assess their professional reputation.

President Eisenhower's motivation for seeking the ABA's recommendations is precisely the reason I am disturbed by the Bush Administration's move to skewer the ABA's role in screening new judges: President Eisenhower sought to insulate the judicial nomination process from political pressures by inviting the American Bar Association to give him ratings of candidates' professional qualifications. Over the years the ABA's assessments of judicial nominees have been invaluable, and I for one do not support the Bush Administration's retreat from injecting more, not less, information about the competency, temperament, and integrity of the potential judges into the nominations process.

Until this year, the bar association has been given advance word from the administration on potential judges. The ABA's special team of lawyers has been able to analyze the candidates' career, assess their professional reputation, and rate the prospective nominees as qualified, well qualified, or not qualified. This process is totally confidential and enables the colleagues of nominees to answer the questions fairly and honestly.

The White House's decision not to release the names of potential judges to the ABA before they are announced to the public is a tragedy. The nomination process will be severely impaired by President Bush's decision. With this move, the President has lost the opportunity to learn as much as possible about nominees early on in the nominations process.

What I fear most and what I believe will happen is that public confidence in the judicial nominations process will fade. And I'd point out, that confidence in the judicial system and in the objectivity of the court is imperative in the wake of the 5-4 Supreme Court ruling that determined the outcome of the last Presidential election. I would expect President Bush to work diligently to disabuse the country of the notion that the law is a subset of politics, not serve to reinforce that impression.

It is my belief that President Bush's decision signals a retreat from impartiality in the judicial nomination process. No longer will the President be troubled with the objective recommendations of the ABA, but will be free to nominate whichever candidates pass political muster. The ABA vetting process is important to reassure the public that selecting judges for the federal bench is not just the work of a small inner-circle of politicians and advisors who are looking for a person of a certain political persuasion.

The White House legal team has already interviewed nearly 60 lawyers for new judgeships and has done so without consulting the ABA. Most of the interviews undertaken so far have been for the 29 vacancies on the courts of appeal, which as you know Mr. President, is the level just below the Supreme Court. I don't want to return to the days before the ABA was brought into the process to make it more fair and objective, but I fear that's exactly where we have ended up.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Friday, March 23, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,734,215,116,583.82, Five trillion, seven hundred thirty-four billion, two hundred fifteen million, one hundred sixteen thousand, five hundred eighty-three dollars and eighty-two cents.

One year ago, March 23, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,729,459,000,000, Five trillion, seven hundred twenty-nine billion, four hundred fifty-nine million.

Twenty-five years ago, March 23, 1976, the Federal debt stood at \$599,190,000,000, Five hundred ninety-nine million, one hundred ninety million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion, \$5,134,549,116,583.82, Five trillion, one hundred thirty-four billion, five hundred forty-nine million, one hundred sixteen thousand, five hundred eighty-three dollars and eighty-two cents, during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

ED HILL, J.J. BARRY AND JERRY O'CONNOR

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I congratulate Ed Hill, the new president of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, IBEW, on his election, and thank the outgoing president, J.J. "Jack" Barry, for his years of dedicated service to IBEW.

When I think about all the hard work and long hours presidents Hill and Barry have put in over the years, I am reminded of a story that one of my heroes, the great Hubert H. Humphrey liked to tell.

It was Humphrey's 65th birthday, and he was celebrating with his grand-

children. One of the grandkids looked up and said, "Grandpa, how long have you been a Democrat?"

Humphrey thought about that for a moment, and replied, "Well, I've been a Democrat for 70 years."

His grandson said, "Grandpa, how could you have been a Democrat for 70 years when you're only 65 years old?"

"Easy," Humphrey answered, "I've put in a lot of overtime."

Well, these men have put in a lot of overtime on behalf of the IBEW and on behalf of all Americans.

You know, I like to tell people, you go to any town in America, rural or urban, big or small, and you'll see the IBEW's work on display. Whether it's lighting our homes, or heating our schools, or bringing the Internet to our libraries, it's clear that the IBEW's work is critical to our families and our economy.

I welcome the new leadership and express my gratitude to the outgoing leadership.

Ed Hill hails from Beaver County, PA, and he has a long history with the IBEW. Ed joined IBEW Local 712 in his hometown back in 1956 and worked his way up to business manager in 1970. He became part of the IBEW staff in 1982, and, by 1994, he was a Vice President in charge of operations in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Delaware.

In 1997, Ed became the IBEW's second highest-ranking officer, and he worked hard to bring the latest technology to IBEW's operations. He also spent long hours building the membership of IBEW-COPE to record levels and making new strides in grassroots activism and communications.

Ed is a talented leader, and he has a strong foundation to build on. IBEW's outgoing president, J.J. Barry, had a long, impressive tenure at the IBEW. Jack is from Syracuse, NY and joined Local 43 in Syracuse in 1943. He served on the executive board and became business manager in 1962. In 1968, he began serving as International Representative and then, in 1976, became International vice president of the third district which includes New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware.

Jack was a virtuoso organizer, and during his tenure, he began a number of important, new initiatives in education and training for IBEW members. He was widely respected and honored throughout this country and around the world for his outstanding work. While I will miss him in his position as president, I look forward to working with him in a new capacity in the coming years.

I also recognize Jerry O'Connor who was appointed to take Ed's place as IBEW secretary-treasurer. Jerry has been on the IBEW staff since 1987 and has served as International vice president of the IBEW's sixth district covering Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin since 1995. He

was initiated into IBEW Local 701 in Wheaton, IL in 1959, and he served his local as business manager-financial secretary from 1978 until he joined the IBEW staff. I look forward to working with him in his new position.

For over 100 years, the IBEW has been a leader in the union movement in America. Whether they were providing energy to our war efforts during World War II, creating one of the best apprenticeship programs around, or providing workers with the cutting edge skills they need to keep up with current electricity needs, IBEW was always ahead of the times.

I know that the newest generation of IBEW leadership will continue this proud tradition. I thank them for their dedication and commitment, and I look forward to working with them in the coming years.●

HONORING THE LATE LT. GEN JAMES T. CALLAGHAN

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, on my last trip to Indiana, I received news that a trusted friend and a great American, Jim Callaghan, had died. I was pleased to have had the time to call at the funeral home and spend some time with the Callaghan family and would like to take a moment here, with my friend Senator BAYH to pay tribute to Lieutenant General James T. Callaghan.

I came to know the General after he retired from the Air Force and settled in Indianapolis in 1993. He was a valuable member of my Service Academy Merit Selection Committee for the last several years and through those efforts I gained a great respect for this man who had given so much for his country, and yet wanted to give more of himself and ensure that the armed services that he had served so loyally for 34 years continued to flourish with the best officer candidates Indiana could produce.

I think to gain a full appreciation of this man's dedication and service to the United States of America and the United States Air Force, I have to describe a litany of duty stations, qualifications, and awards. I quote liberally from his active duty Air Force bio:

General Callaghan was born in Chicago in 1938 and grew up there. He graduated from the University of Detroit in 1959 where he was also commissioned through the ROTC program. He received a masters from The George Washington University in 1971 and was further educated at the Naval War College the National War College and the University of Houston.

Following pilot training and follow-on instructor duty at Laredo AFB, TX and duty with the 6th Fighter Squadron at Eglin AFB. The air force pilot set off for Vietnam in 1966, flying in more than 425 combat missions in Southeast Asia. He returned from Viet-

nam in October 1967, to staff assignments in Washington DC.

F-4's were next, and in 1975 he joined the 50th Tactical Fighter Wing at Hahn Air Base, West Germany, eventually rising to command the 86th Tactical Fighter Group based at Ramstein. In 1979, after War College, he joined the Joint Staff's Operations Directorate and in June 1981 became deputy director for regional plans and policy and director of the Ground-Launched Cruise Missile Planning Group in the Directorate of Plans, Air Force headquarters.

From 1983 to 1986 General Callaghan was commandant of the Air Force Institute of Technology and of the Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management, both located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH. His next assignments were in Korea, including chief of staff of the U.N. Command and of the Republic of Korea/U.S. Combined Forces Command, Seoul.

In July 1988, the general was transferred back to Germany, and assumed the duties of director, plans and policy, Headquarters U.S. European Command, in Stuttgart. His last active duty assignment was as commander, Allied Air Forces Southern Europe, and deputy commander in chief, U.S. Air Forces in Europe for the Southern Area, with headquarters in Naples, Italy from December 1990 until his retirement in January 1993, which put him in command of the northern area of operations in Operation Desert Shield and Storm and subsequently Northern Watch.

The general, a command pilot with more than 4,500 flying hours was decorated with the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Defense Superior Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Medal with 16 oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal and Army Commendation Medal. General Callaghan also wears the Parachutist Badge with bronze star. The bronze star was awarded for his combat jump in Vietnam in February 1967 while serving as air liaison officer to the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

Over the last 8 years, Jim served in a number of civic organizations, the American Legion, the Air Force Association, the Order of Daedalians, and the Indy 500 Festival Memorial Service Committee. He is survived by his wife, Ann, his sons James T. the third, and D. Christian; his daughter Elizabeth Cooke; his mother Ruth Callaghan; his brothers John, William, Michael and Patrick and his sister Ruth Tushkowski. He and Ann have six grandchildren.

In closing, let me add that the while the works of men like General

Callaghan often go unheralded, it is because they do not seek the limelight. As I speak these words today, I think the General would want me to make mention of the men and women with whom he served and who worked for him during his 34 years of service, those still on active duty and the many veterans and retirees who have served, to whom we owe a great debt of thanks for the peace and freedoms we enjoy today. So, as I salute General Callaghan today, on his behalf I salute his service, the United States Air Force and all those who have worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces.●

● Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today along with my senior colleague, Senator RICHARD LUGAR, to honor the life of a fellow Hoosier and distinguished veteran of the United States Air Force, Lieutenant General James T. Callaghan, who recently passed away.

As those who knew Lt. Gen. Callaghan can attest, his strong commitment to his country is reflected in his long and distinguished service in the Air Force. Over his career, which spanned more than three decades, he served with valor in the Vietnam and Gulf Wars. During his service he received many combat awards, including the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Bronze Star.

In the late 1980s, Lt. Gen. Callaghan commanded U.S. air troops in Korea and later during the Gulf War, he served as the southern commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Allied Air Forces. Lt. Gen. Callaghan exhibited extraordinary bravery and exceptional leadership on the eve of the Gulf war. He personally flew a test combat mission that night in an effort to assess the situation before committing his young troops to battle.

In addition to his combat service, Lt. Gen. Callaghan aided the U.S. Armed Forces in many other capacities. He served as president of the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, as director of plans and policy for the U.S./European Command, and also held several high-ranking positions at the Pentagon.

After retiring from the Air Force in 1993, Lt. Gen. Callaghan continued his service to his country and fellow citizens. He worked with many organizations in the Indianapolis area, most notably the Indianapolis 500 Festival Memorial Service Committee and Senator LUGAR's Military Academy Merit Selection Board.

Lt. Gen. James T. Callaghan was a true hero that the State of Indiana and nation will miss tremendously. Senator LUGAR and I commend the late Lt. Gen. James T. Callaghan for his lifelong service to our Nation.●